

(4) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.—Subsections (b)(1), (c), and (d) of section 326 of the Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1981 (Public Law 97-35, 95 Stat. 406; 42 U.S.C. 1437f note).

(5) PUBLIC HOUSING CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT.—Section 222 of the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983 (12 U.S.C. 1701z-6 note).

(6) INDIAN HOUSING CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT.—Section 518 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701z-6 note).

(7) PUBLIC HOUSING ONE-STOP PERINATAL SERVICES DEMONSTRATION.—Section 521 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 1437t note).

(8) PUBLIC HOUSING MINCS DEMONSTRATION.—Section 522 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f note).

(9) PUBLIC HOUSING ENERGY EFFICIENCY DEMONSTRATION.—Section 523 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 1437g note).

(10) PUBLIC AND ASSISTED HOUSING YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS.—Section 520 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 11903a).

SEC. 411. GUARANTEE OF LOANS FOR ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.

Notwithstanding section 108(b) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308(b)), with respect to any eligible public entity (or any public agency designated by an eligible public entity) receiving assistance under that section (in this section referred to as the "issuer"), a guarantee or commitment to guarantee may be made with respect to any note or other obligation under such section 108 if the issuer's total outstanding notes or obligations guaranteed under that section (excluding any amount defeased under the contract entered into under section 108(d)(1)(A) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308(d)(1)(A))) would thereby exceed an amount equal to 5 times the amount of the grant approval for the issuer pursuant to section 106 or 107 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, if the issuer's total outstanding notes or obligations guaranteed under that section (excluding any amount defeased under the contract entered into under section 108(d)(1)(A) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308(d)(1)(A))) would not thereby exceed an amount equal to 6 times the amount of the grant approval for the issuer pursuant to section 106 or 107 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, if the additional grant amount is used only for the purpose of acquiring or transferring the ownership of the production facility located at the following address in order to maintain production: One Prince Avenue, Lowell, Massachusetts 01852.

SEC. 412. PROHIBITION ON USE OF ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT RELOCATION ACTIVITIES.

Section 105 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305) is amended by adding at the end the following: "(h) PROHIBITION ON USE OF ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT RELOCATION ACTIVITIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amount from a grant under section 106 made in fiscal year 1997 or any succeeding fiscal year may be used to directly assist in the relocation of any industrial or commercial plant, facility, or operation, from 1 area to another area, if the relocation is likely to result in an increase in the unemployment rate in the labor market area from which the relocation occurs."

SEC. 413. USE OF HOME FUNDS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING MODERNIZATION.

Notwithstanding section 212(d)(5) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable

Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12742(d)(5)), amounts made available to the City of Bismarck, North Dakota or the State of North Dakota, under subtitle A of title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.) for fiscal year 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, or 2002, may be used to carry out activities authorized under section 14 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437l) for the purpose of modernizing the Crescent Manor public housing project located at 107 East Bowen Avenue, in Bismarck, North Dakota, if—

(1) the Burleigh County Housing Authority (or any successor public housing agency that owns or operates the Crescent Manor public housing project) has obligated all other Federal assistance made available to that public housing agency for that fiscal year; or

(2) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development authorizes the use of those amounts for the purpose of modernizing that public housing project, which authorization may be made with respect to 1 or more of those fiscal years.

SEC. 414. REPORT ON SINGLE FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY HOMES.

Not later than March 1, 1998, the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall submit to Congress a report, which shall include information relating to—

(1) with respect to 1- to 4-family dwellings owned by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as of November 1, 1997—

(A) the total number of units in those dwellings;

(B) the number and percentage of units in those dwellings that are unoccupied, and their average period of vacancy, as of that date; and

(C) the number and percentage of units in those dwellings that have been unoccupied for more than 1 year, as of that date;

(2) with respect to multifamily housing projects (as that term is defined in section 203 of the Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1978) owned by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as of November 1, 1997—

(A) the total number of units in those projects;

(B) the number and percentage of units in those projects that are unoccupied, and their average period of vacancy, as of that date;

(C) the number and percentage of units in those projects that have been unoccupied for more than 1 year, as of that date; and

(D) the number and percentage of units in those projects that are determined by the Inspector General to be substandard, based on any—

(i) lack of hot or cold piped water;

(ii) lack of working toilets;

(iii) regular and prolonged breakdowns in heating;

(iv) dangerous electrical problems;

(v) unsafe hallways or stairways;

(vi) leaking roofs, windows, or pipes;

(vii) open holes in walls and ceilings; and

(viii) indications of rodent infestation;

(3) the causes of the vacancies described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1), and subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2), and the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development that are, as of November 1, 1997, targeted to rectifying those causes; and

Senate Office Building, on Wednesday, October 1, 1997, at 10 a.m. concerning the contested election for U.S. Senator from Louisiana.

For further information concerning this business meeting, please contact Bruce Kasold of the committee staff at 4-3448.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE NATIONAL GUARD

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, as we are all well aware, sustained military operations around the world, coupled with declining numbers of active duty personnel, have required the Defense Department to rely more and more on the National Guard. Guard units and air assets have been called to active duty by the President and deployed throughout the world with increasing frequency. Serving directly with their active duty counterparts, National Guard units today are in every military theater. Theater commanders have continually stated that it would be a challenge to efficiently execute their operations without the Guard.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending a parade in honor of Virginia National Guard soldiers who have been recalled to support Operation Joint Guard, the ongoing NATO mission in the former Yugoslavia. The unit is Company C, 3-116th Infantry Battalion from the 29th Infantry Division and their mission will be to secure the base camp and Sava River bridge in Slavonski-Brod, Croatia. The 129 soldiers of this company will be deployed for up to 270 days. This is the first time an infantry unit has been mobilized under a Presidential callup for the Bosnia operation. I am very proud of this unit and all of the Commonwealth's National Guardsmen.

With the expanded role of the National Guard, I personally support greater recognition of the National Guard chief. Guardsmen from the Commonwealth and across the United States require strong leadership which can make their concerns known to the active duty military and ensure that the Guard is ready to perform its important missions. As always, these citizen-soldiers have committed themselves to be ready on a moment's notice. They must have a leader of sufficient rank and stature to effectively advocate their cause.

Recently, Senator STEVENS delivered remarks to the National Guard Association on the role of the National Guard Bureau chief. Senator STEVENS' remarks highlight the important issues facing the National Guard today and why it is necessary for their chief to receive a place at the table with his active duty counterparts. I am submitting Senator STEVENS' remarks for the RECORD and I encourage my colleagues to take a moment and review his thoughtful comments.

The remarks follow:

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will hold a business meeting in SR-301, Russell

REMARKS OF SENATOR TED STEVENS

Thank you for the recognition and honor you confer on me today.

The Harry S. Truman Award, unlike any other, reflects the input of leaders from the 54 association chapters from every corner of America.

There is no organization with whom I have worked more closely than the National Guard Association during my 17 years as chairman or ranking member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

This award reflects the tutelage I received from a previous recipient of this honor, my close friend and mentor, John Stennis.

The insight and wisdom of my great friend, compounded by my own experience working with the Alaska National Guard, founded my belief that the Guard serves as an essential pillar of our national security.

Over the years, we have worked to modernize during the buildup led by President Reagan in the 1980's, and now realign force structure during the 1990's.

Our efforts reflect a determination to fulfill the vision of our Nation's Founding Fathers—that our national defense be maintained and preserved by citizen soldiers—by all Americans.

The National Guard, and the National Guard Association of the United States, are the embodiment of that guiding principle in our Constitution.

Your conference here in Albuquerque serves to refresh, and reforge, our mutual commitment to ensure the National Guard grows in capability and stature within our national security establishment.

While the Guard faces some tough trials in the weeks and months ahead, there is genuine reason for optimism that our efforts will succeed.

A major factor contributing to this optimism is the bipartisan budget agreement, negotiated by my good friend, Senator PETE DOMENICI, who is with us here today.

This compact should give us 5 years of stability in defense funding—we've not enjoyed these circumstances since the early 1980's.

With predictable spending levels, Secretary Bill Cohen and the Joint Chiefs may plan and implement force realignment and modernization plans.

Our job now is to assure Guard participation in the allocation of resources and to modernize the force as we enter the 21st century.

You have many real friends to turn to in this effort.

We've just heard from one of our most important friends, Joe Ralston.

You don't need to hear from me how Joe feels about the National Guard. Just ask Ed Baca, Jake Lestenkof, or Hugh Cox.

Secretary Cohen knows first hand what the Guard means to all our States, and is a genuine ally in the Senate on Guard issues—he listens with a sympathetic ear. You'll hear from General Reimer tomorrow. You'll find him a true friend also.

Your job, and mine, is to help these friends effectively advocate the Guard's interests and priorities.

Now, more than ever before, the National Guard must function as a total partner in the total force. We cannot permit the National Guard to struggle for resources—it needs the total support of the Army and Air Force.

The Army and Air Force can only achieve their missions—our National Security missions—with the total participation and support of the National Guard. It's a two-way street, and our system simply won't work any other way.

Recent missions in Bosnia, Southwest Asia, Haiti, and Korea make apparent this axiom.

Each of you knows the extraordinary service performed by Air and Army National Guard units overseas. On my own visits to these forces, every CINC has extolled the performance, readiness, and dedication of the National Guard Forces assigned to their commands. That is the success story of our total force.

While undertaking these military missions, the National Guard continues to serve its State role. Everyone of us here understands the unique status the Guard holds as an arm of our State governments. Whether responding to natural disasters, or managing the youth challenge program performing so successfully, the National Guard serves our communities every day.

To ensure the representation of the National Guard at the highest levels of DOD, I authored an amendment sponsored by 48 other Senators. This legislation would change the rank, and role, of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

That amendment passed the Senate without any objection, and awaits final resolution on the Defense authorization bill.

We succeeded in passing this legislation in large part because of the work of the Guard, the association, and the adjutants general.

The expanded role of the Guard, and its relative size within the military, should be reflected in an appropriate rank for the chief.

Resolution of this issue must include a voice—and a seat at the table—for the National Guard, when the Secretary and the Joint Chiefs make force structure and resource decisions that impact the Guard.

The details of my suggestion are yet to be resolved. Our goal is to assure that the National Guard leader is equal in rank and capability to the members of the Joint Chiefs.

Achieving this priority is only meaningful if we improve and build on relations between the Army, the National Guard, and the Army Reserve.

This initiative is meant to build bridges, and expand the dialog and understanding by Pentagon leaders of the Guard's needs and capabilities.

If by doing so, we burn bridges behind us, we will achieve little in the end. We must achieve change—change that all parties can live with, and will commit to work together to achieve.

We continue to need your support and active involvement—you will make the difference in the end. You and your force meet more Americans every day than all other military forces put together. You need to support adequate funding levels for all defense activities, including the Coast Guard.

You need to tell the chamber of commerce, the Rotary, the Lions, the Kiwanis Clubs, and the PTA's what America needs is a ready defense force. You are part of that force.

Again, let me thank you for honoring me today with the Truman Award. I am humbled by your recognition of my efforts.

I will continue to be your partner, and advocate, in the years to come.●

COMMEMORATION OF LAWSUIT ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I recognize a growing group of concerned citizens in West Virginia working to educate the public about their concerns over the costs of what they refer to as "lawsuit abuse."

In many areas of West Virginia, local supporters of Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse have given their time on a volunteer basis to speak out about an issue that has statewide and national implications. The costs of lawsuits can include higher costs for consumer products, higher medical expenses, higher taxes, and fewer jobs, due to lost business expansion and forgone product development. At the same time, the legal system must provide avenues for recourse and justice. Together, leaders and citizens must try to achieve consensus in ensuring that our system is balanced and fair to all.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse has a straightforward goal. They want to help the public prevent unnecessary lawsuits.

When West Virginians see a problem, we work to make people aware of it, and we try to make it right. CALA members are citizens who believe they see harm to our society brought on by certain unnecessary lawsuits and excessive awards that can cripple a small business or strip an individual of his or her life savings. CALA supporters emphasize that they want to make sure that persons with a real need for the civil justice system have access to the courts. Public opinion surveys in our state have shown that a majority of responsible citizens want their legal system to be more fair, more effective, and more sensible, to serve everyone's interests.

These nonprofit CALA groups have raised local funds to run educational media announcements and are speaking to local organizations and citizen groups across the State to raise public awareness of the issue that they call "lawsuit abuse."

Supporters of CALA also encourage that citizens do their part by serving on juries when they are called. To help encourage the youth of West Virginia to become responsible citizens when they reach adulthood, CALA groups have offered scholarship grants to students through an essay contest on the subject of importance of jury service.

While the local groups have thousands of supporters, there are few individuals who should be recognized for their ongoing leadership and for dedicating countless volunteer hours in the past year. These individuals are Cuz Blake of Bridgeport, chairman and founding member of CALA of Northern